

Assembly Bill 1958

Oak Woodland Restoration



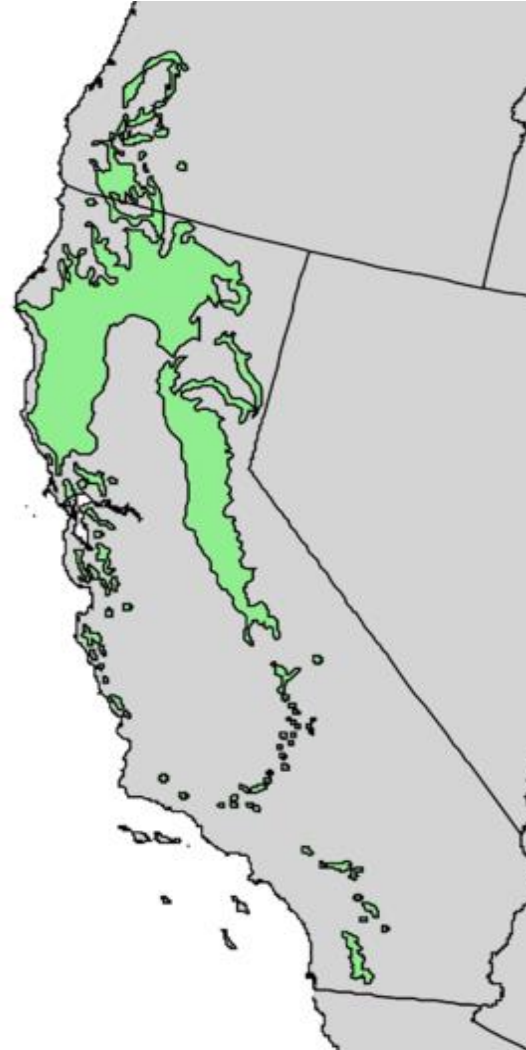
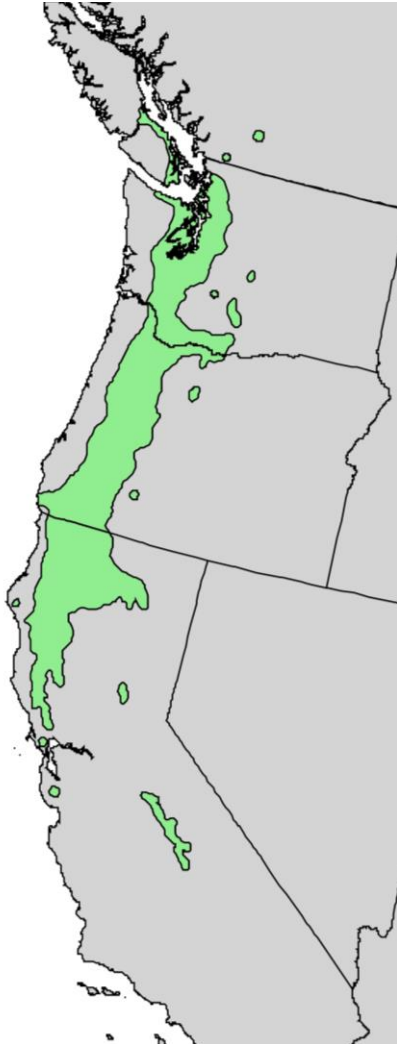


Oak woodlands

Oak woodlands are unique and valuable ecosystems

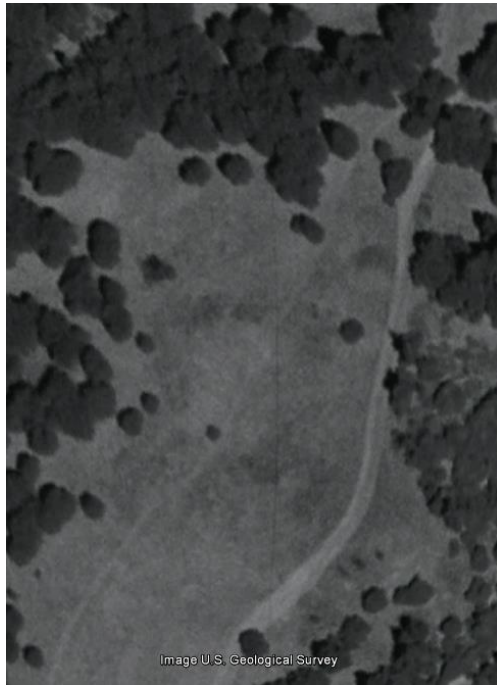
- Support very high levels of biodiversity
- Provide valuable food sources and habitat for wildlife
- Cultural landscapes: deeply connected to Native American tradition and culture
- Working landscapes: valued by ranchers and other landowners

Oregon white oak and California black oak



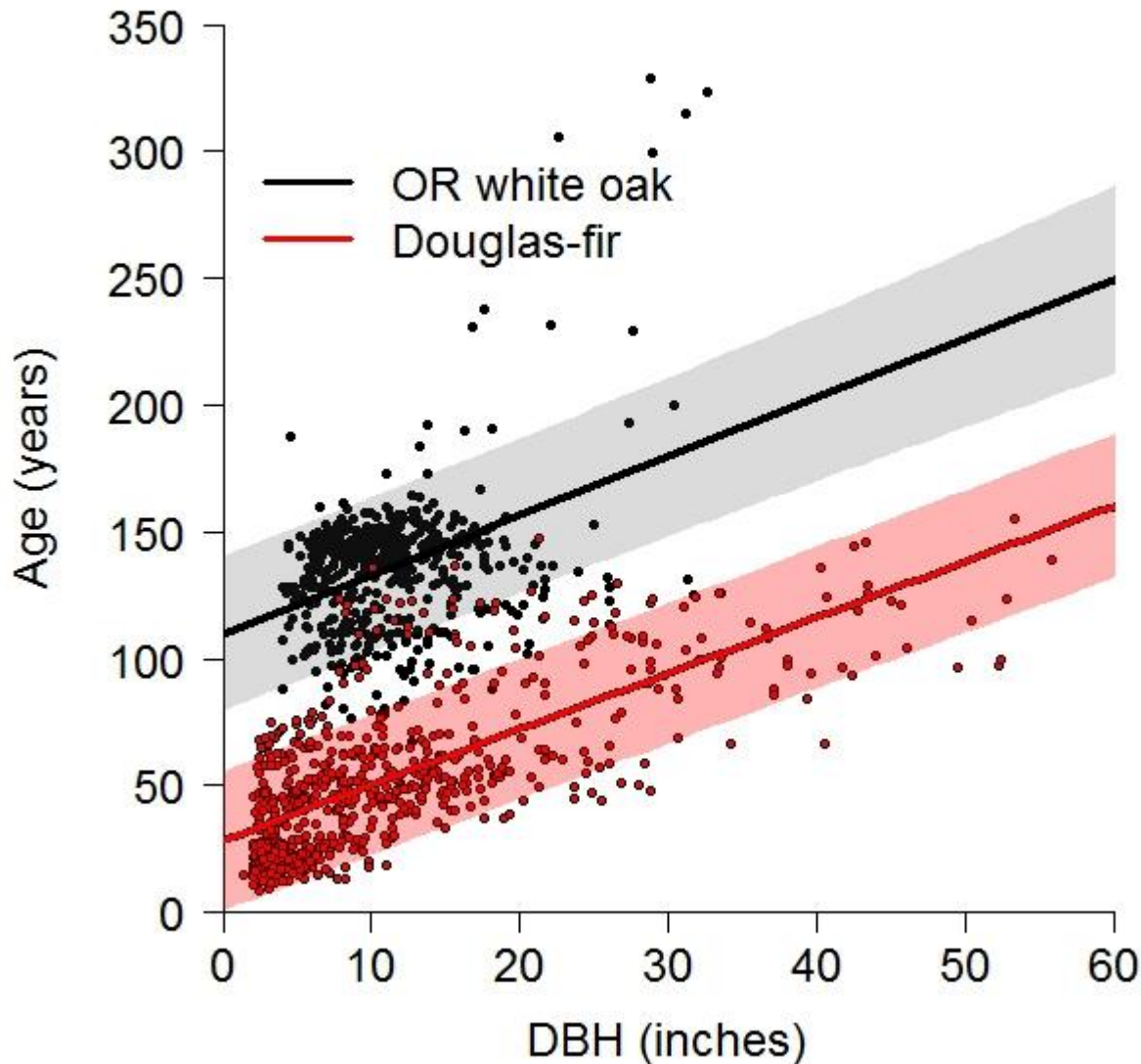
Rapid conifer encroachment (24 years)

Native conifer encroachment is a widespread **result of fire suppression**

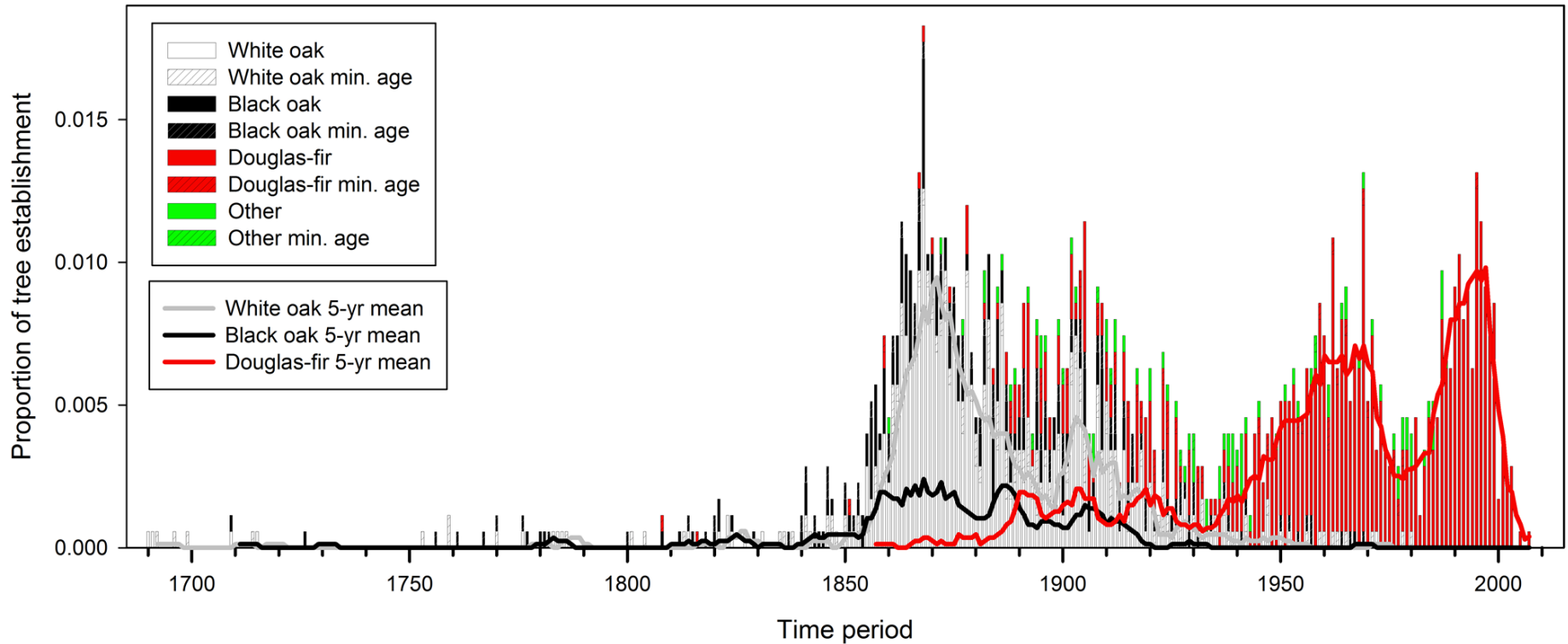


Douglas-fir grows quickly, eventually overtopping the oaks and competing for sunlight and other resources

Oregon white oak and Douglas-fir diameter to age relationships



Age distributions



*The proportion of tree ages of *Q. garryana*, *Q. kelloggii*, *P. menziesii*, and other tree species sampled from 10 mixed oak-conifer woodland sites ($n = 90$ plots) in northwestern California. The 5-year smoothing averages (solid horizontal lines) of tree establishment trends for each species is overlaid.*



Recap

- Oaks are declining rapidly with conifer encroachment
- Oaks are older and larger in diameter than the Douglas-fir, many oaks are multi-stemmed
- Time to conifer co-dominance ranges from 20-80 years and is happening more rapidly on wetter sites
- Conifer encroachment strongly correlates with our current fire regime

AB 1958 offers a two pronged approach

1. Narrow THP exemption

- Public Resources Code 4584

2. Clarifies that restoration is not conversion

- Public Resources Code 4621



Conservation is not conversion

- AB 1958 clarifies that restoring oak woodlands does not require a timberland conversion permit (prc.4621)





THP Exemption

- 84% of the North Coast's oaks are on private land
- As much as 60-70% of remaining oak woodland are actively undergoing stand succession
- Without intervention these woodlands could be lost in the next several decades
- This is labor intensive and very expensive work
- Most of these conifers are not good saw logs







Organizations in Support

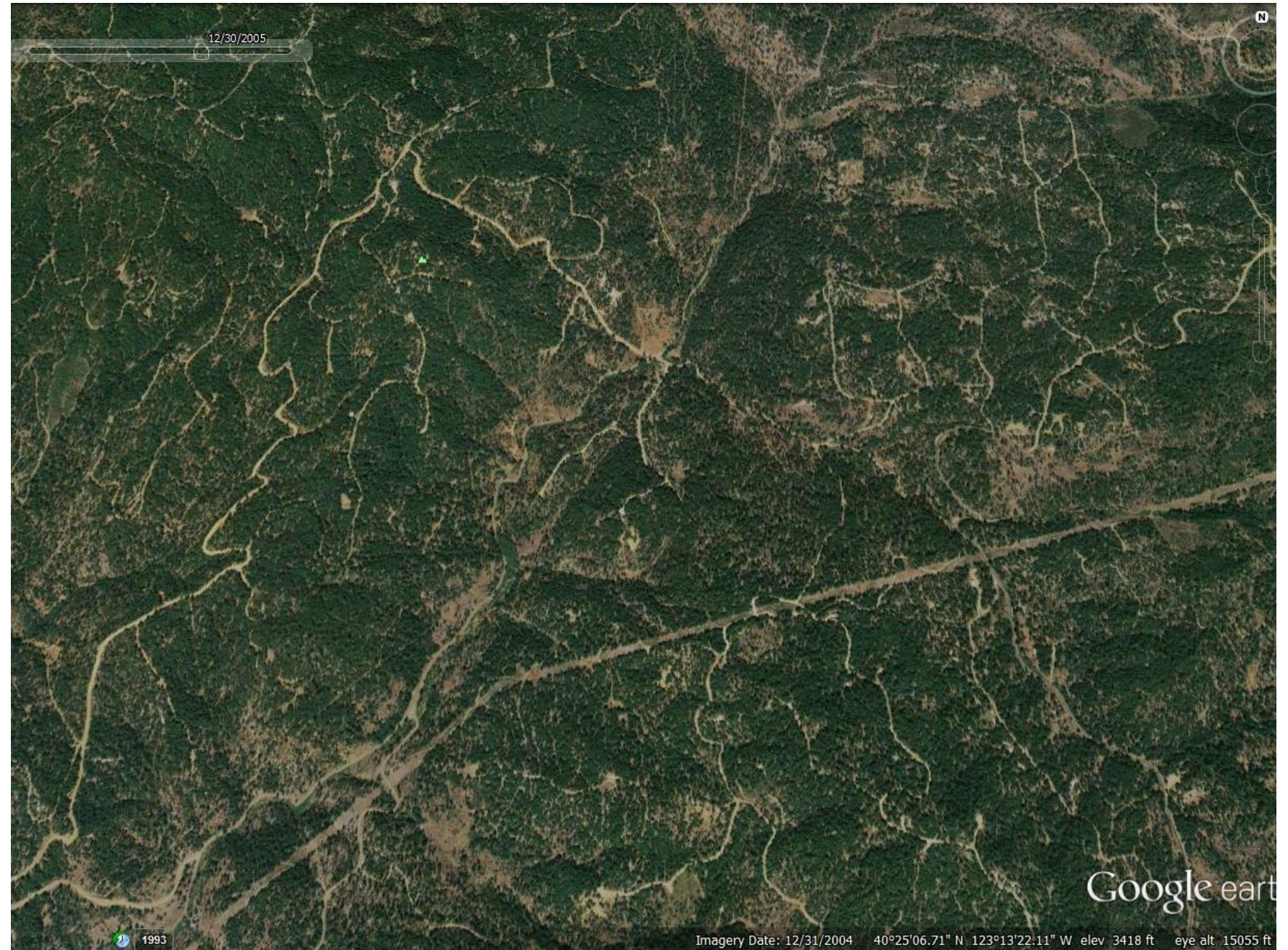
- ❖ North Coast Regional Land Trust
- ❖ Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)
- ❖ Pacific Forest Trust
- ❖ Mattole Restoration Council
- ❖ Pacific Birds
- ❖ Buckeye Conservancy
- ❖ Humboldt & Del Norte Cattleman's Association
- ❖ Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
- ❖ Yager/Van Duzen Environmental Stewards
- ❖ Klamath Bird Observatory
- ❖ Sanctuary Forest
- ❖ Lomakatsi Restoration Project

Organizations Opposed

None

3 Acre Conversions – Trinity County

Basin Gulch, Trinity County **2005**



9/2010

N

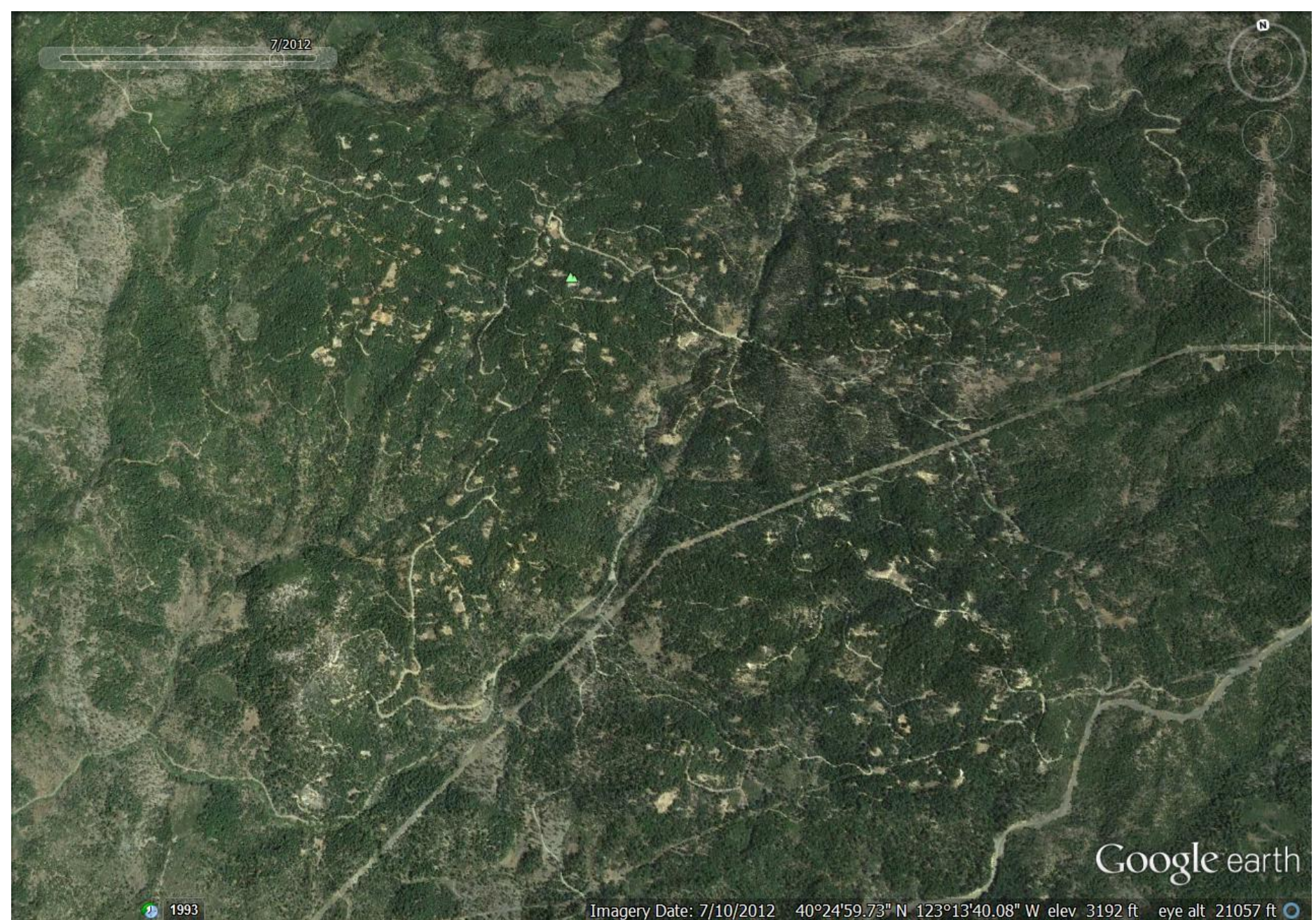
Image USDA Farm Service Agency

Google earth

1993

Imagery Date: 4/24/2010 40°24'59.73" N 123°13'40.08" W elev 3192 ft eye alt 21057 ft

Basin Gulch Trinity County **2010**



Basin Gulch Trinity County **2012**



Basin Gulch Trinity County **2015**



2005



2015

